

Workshop on Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Camping in Certain Locations on Public Property and County's Encampment Response Policy

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Overview

- Multi-faceted approach to responding to unsheltered homelessness that prioritizes connections with shelter, housing, and services
- Balancing implementation of service oriented strategy with community concerns about increase in and conditions of unsanctioned encampments on public property

Overview

- Efforts to restrict camping or encampments on public property must comply with legal requirements
- As more shelter becomes available and additional outreach and enforcement resources are dedicated, the County's ability to enforce restrictions on camping or encampments on public property will increase

Current Approach

- Two complimentary approaches to outreach, engagement and service connections:
 - Encampment Services Team
 - Response Oriented Services
- Augmented with debris & sanitation services
- Expanding shelter availability and access:
 - New 'Safe Stay' Communities
 - Improving efficacy of existing shelters
 - Investing in coordinated access



Encampment Response Policy

- Guides County response to encampments
 - Assessment of site conditions and impacts
 - Engagement and shelter offers
 - Documentation of efforts
- Prioritizes response based on objective criteria
- Directs limited resources to most critical locations
- Complies with legal requirements



Encampment Response Policy

Current Priorities for Encampment Response Teams

- Safety
- Location
- Health
- Vulnerability of occupants

Proposed Ordinance

- Prohibits camping and encampments on public property in or near specific locations:
 - Critical infrastructure (25 feet)
 - Locations providing shelter (up to 1,000 feet)
 - Wildfire risk areas during inclement weather (30 feet)
 - Flood risk areas during inclement weather



Proposed Ordinance

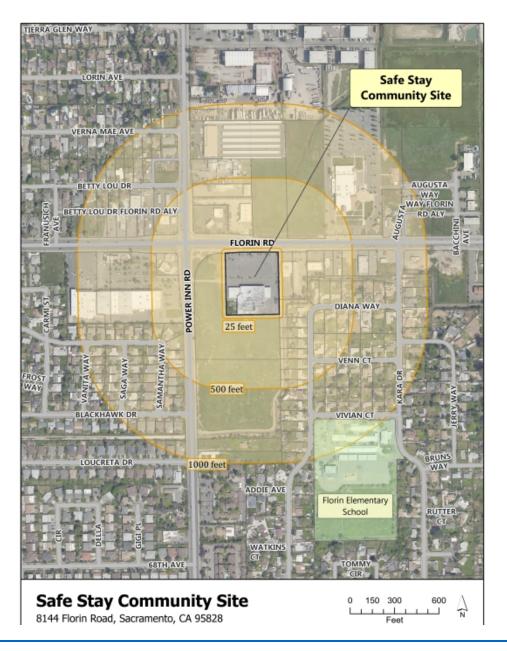
These locations were identified because

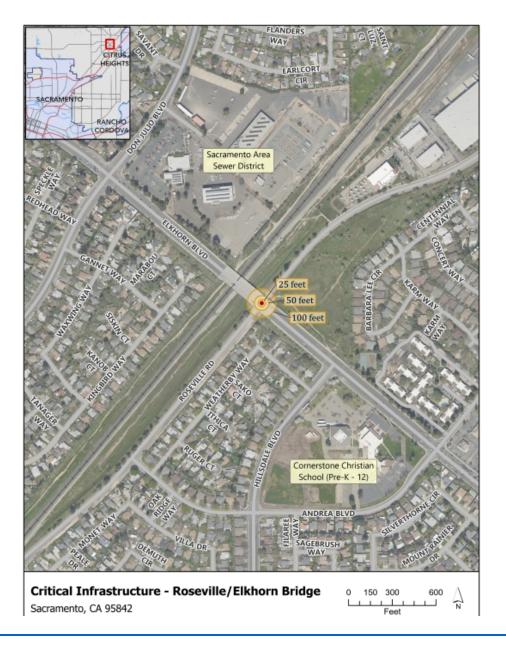
- Potential damage and/or destruction of vital County assets
- Impede County operations and maintenance
- Shelters should result in a decrease in encampments in surrounding area
- Past challenges clearing wildfire and flood risk areas during inclement weather



Key Questions

- Should the County limit the ordinance to only one or two of the four areas?
- What is the preferred size of 'buffer areas' around identified locations?
- Is there support for the use of criminal penalties as a last resort?





Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback from the Board of Supervisors
- If directed by the Board, return for introduction of proposed ordinance
- Staff will revise and update Encampment Response Policy based on Board's feedback